

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

NEAE-00 SSM-03 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

OMB-01 /080 W

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O R 241534Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1586

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

/AMEMBASSY ATHENS 7325

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: NQKA

TAGS: PFOR, LE

SUBJECT: REACTIONS TO HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION

REF: BEIRUT 7040

1. BEIRUT PRESS AUG 24 CONTINUES RELATIVELY STRAIGHTFORWARD REPORTING ON MISSION, REFLECTING HOUGHTON STATEMENT THAT MISSION CAME TO GATHER INFORMATION AND TO CARRY ON ROLE WHICH UNDER NORMAL CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD BE PERFORMED BY EMBASSY BEIRUT.

2. PRESS REPORTS AUG 24 THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK FIRST MET PIERRE GEMAYEL AT BIKFAYA EARLY AUG 23 FOR TWO HOURS. GEMAYEL REPORTED AS BRIEFING VISITORS ON BATTLES AT SANNINE AND AYOUN
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EL-SIMANE WITH AID OF TELESCOPE. AS-SAFIR SAYS GEMAYEL

REPROACHED U.S. "BECAUSE IT PUTS ITSELF FORWARD IN THE WORLD AS A CHAMPION OF PEACE, BUT IS NOT INTERESTED IN PEACE AND JUSTICE IN LEBANON."

3. PRESS SAYS PARTY THEN PROCEEDED TO KFOUR FOR ONE AND A HALF HOUR MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE, IN PRESENCE OF CHAMOUN AND LUCIEN DAHDAH. L'ORIENT SAYS CHAMOUN MET PARTY "IN HIS ROLE AS MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS." (COMMENT: L'ORIENT USED IDENTICAL FORMULATION TWO WEEKS AGO TO CHARACTERIZE MEETING OF CHARGE HUNT WITH PRIMIN KARAME.) CHAMOUN QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HOUGHTON-MACK MISSION WAS NOT COMPARABLE TO EARLIER DEAN BROWN MISSION, AND WAS ONLY FOR PURPOSE OF GATHERING INFORMAOION.

4. PRESS REPORTS THAT HOUGHTON AND MACK THEN MET GHASSAN TUEINI AT 1930 AUG 23 (NOTING THAT TUEINI HAD MET CHARGE HUNT IN WEST BEIRUT WEEK AGO), AND THEN WENT TO DINNER WITH MICHEL EL-KHOURY. AN-NAHAR CHARACTERIZED MOVES OF PARTY AS "SPEEDY AND SECRET." L'ORIENT REPORTED SPECULATION AMONG KFOUR CIRCLES THAT PARTY WOULD DEPART JOUNIEH AUG 24 VIA U.S. MILITARY HELICOPTER. (IN FACT THEY DEPARTED AT NOON BY COMMERCIAL SHIP TO CYPRES.) AN-NAHAR SAID PARTY WOULD RETURN TO JOUNIEH IN FEW DAYS.

5. LEFTIST AL-MUHARRIR SAYS IT HAS LEARNED THAT MISSION PLANNED ONLY AFTER CRITICISM BY CHAMOUN AND GEMAYEL OF U.S. FAILURE TO CONTACT KFOUR FRONT AND PRESSURE FROM LEBANESE-AMERICANS. PAPER SAID IT WIDELY BELIEVED THAT PURPOSE OF MISSION WAS MERELY TO SATISFY KFOUR FRONT, NOT TO TAKE ANY REAL ACTION.
HUNT

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